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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Executive Registry

89-4096

October 12, 1989

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MEMORANDUM TO:

MR. BRENT SCOWCROFT  
National Security Affairs  
Advisor  
The White House

MR. ROGER PORTER  
Assistant to the President  
for Economic and Domestic  
Policy Development  
The White House

MR. CARNES LORD  
Assistant to the Vice President  
for National Security Affairs  
Old Executive Office Building

COLONEL GEORGE P. COLE, JR.  
Executive Secretary  
Department of Defense

MR. ROBERT S. ROSS, JR.  
Executive Assistant to the  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice

MR. JAMES BUCK  
Acting Commissioner  
Immigration and Naturalization  
Service

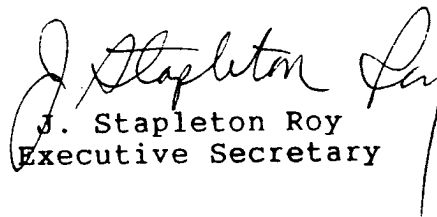
MS ROBIN H. CARLE  
Executive Secretary  
Department of Health  
and Human Services

MR. FRANK HODSOLL  
Executive Associate Director  
for National Security and  
International Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget

MR. H. LAWRENCE SANDALL  
Executive Secretary  
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: PCC Meeting on Eastern European Refugees

Please transmit the attached meeting notification to  
principals of the Policy Coordinating Committee on refugees.

  
J. Stapleton Roy  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:  
As stated

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EXEC  
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B-413-JR



UNITED STATES COORDINATOR  
FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM

October 11, 1989

TO: Policy Coordinating Committee  
on Refugees Participants

FROM: S/R - JEWEL<sup>TS</sup> S. LAFONTANT  
Chairperson  
PCC on Refugees

SUBJECT: PCC Meeting on Eastern European Refugees

I have scheduled a meeting of the Policy Coordinating Committee on Refugees to discuss policy recommendations on Eastern European refugees.

DATE: Thursday, October 19, 1989

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Room 7516, Department of State

AGENDA: Eastern European Refugees

Principals plus one are invited to attend the meeting at the Assistant Secretary level. Participants should phone their attendance to Ms. Joyce McDaniel at 647-3964.

Discussions will be based on the attached paper which we submit for your review and comments.

cc:

M - Mr. Selin  
D - Mr. Juster  
RP - Amb. Lyman  
CA - Ms. Clark  
HA - Amb. Schifter  
H - Ms. Mullins  
L - Judge Sofaer  
EUR - Mr. Seitz

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REFUGEE POLICY FOR POLES AND HUNGARIANS

Issue:

Whether to restrict refugee processing and admission of Polish and Hungarian applicants.

Essential Factors:

Internal democratization in Poland and Hungary has virtually eliminated restrictions on travel and emigration for citizens of those countries. Hungary has just passed a new emigration law that upon enactment, will make it eligible for indefinite MFN status without the need for waivers. UNHCR will be establishing an office in Budapest in the near future.

Western European countries who have traditionally offered refuge to Eastern European asylum seekers are now complaining that, in the case of Poles and Hungarians, our refugee policy is a magnet for economic migrants. They would like us to take measures to discourage new arrivals. The FRG intends to return Poles and Hungarians who are not resettled elsewhere within three months of arrival, although INS-approved refugees may remain until the end of calendar 89. Austria has indicated that it may act similarly.

Current U.S. policy is to consider all Polish and Hungarian refugee applications. 81 percent of the 25,000 Eastern European refugee applicants awaiting interviews are Poles and Hungarians. 500 more signed up in August. Because FY 89 numbers were running out, we stopped interviewing last June. Interviews are scheduled to resume in October with the beginning of the new fiscal year. The bulk of the FY 90 Eastern European numbers are already committed (to Belgrade processing, family reunification, Romanian TCP, and approved cases that could not be moved in FY 89 because of insufficient numbers) and there is already a limit on how many we can interview in FY 90. Even if admissions numbers were unlimited, INS might not have the capacity to interview the 25,000 backlog from FY 89 during FY 90. Thus we face the prospect of keeping those who register in FY 90 (including some genuine refugees) waiting at least a year for an interview.

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Polish and Hungarian registrants are at the heart of this dilemma. In considering modifications to U.S. policy on these refugee applicants, we have the following options:

1. Discontinue refugee processing and admission for Priority 6 Poles and Hungarians who register in FY 90. Interview all those previously registered.
2. Discontinue refugee processing and admission for Priority 6 Poles and Hungarians, including those previously registered. This would eliminate most of the interview backlog.
3. Review Polish and Hungarian refugees adjudicated earlier but not yet resettled in the U.S. and rescind their refugee status, as appropriate.
4. Restrict processing of Polish and Hungarian cases to those of special interest (i.e. Priority 1), except on a case-by-case basis after clearance is received from Washington.
5. Maintain policy as now in effect.

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